CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 34 – Pietism and the Moravians

1. ***A New Movement in the Lutheran Church***
   a. *Philipp Jacob Spener - father of Pietism, born in western Germany in 1635, belonged to the Lutheran Church*
   b. *the religious atmosphere in which Spener grew up: the clergy many were not converted men, among the members of the church there was much drunkenness and immorality*
   c. *In 1666 Spener became chief pastor in Frankfort; he gathered a small group of people who, like himself, were not satisfied with merely formal religion; they read and studied the Bible, prayed, and discussed the sermon Spener had preached the previous Sunday; the purpose of these meetings was to foster a deeper and warmer spiritual life; these meetings was given the name* collegia pietatis, *or gatherings for the purpose of fostering piety*
   d. *the movement in the Lutheran Church started by Spener became known as* Pietism
2. ***Spener Believes Christianity Is a Life***
   a. *Spener proposed the establishment of ecclesiolae in ecclesia, little churches within the church*
   b. *Preaching should not be doctrinal or controversial, but should be designed to build up the Christian life of the hearers; Only that Christianity is genuine which reveals itself in a life of devotion and service*
   c. *Spener's activities called attention to the unwholesome conditions prevailing in the Lutheran Church of that day. He met bitter opposition. After difficult pastorates at Frankfort and Dresden, he worked with joy in Berlin until his death in 1705*
3. ***August Francke***
   a. *Dresden, spent two months with Spener, and joined the* Pietist *movement*
   b. *Francke now made the University of Halle a center of Pietism*
   c. *In 1695 he founded a school for poor children, to be conducted in the spirit of Pietism*
4. *Francke Encourages the Work of Missions*
   a. *the Reformation was consumed largely in the struggle with Catholicism and the Wars of Religion for the first 200 years*
   b. *the eighteenth century a new era opened in the history of Protestant missions*
   c. *Frederick IV, king of Denmark, wished to establish mission posts in his colony in India; During the eighteenth century no fewer than sixty missionaries went forth from the University of Halle to the foreign field*
   d. *The most famous of these was Christian Friedrich Schwartz, preached the Gospel in India from 1750 to the end of his life in 1798*
5. ***Pietism Has Serious Defects***
   a. *was ascetic, and emphasized severe self- denial; the children in his institutions were allowed so little opportunity for play*
   b. *was critical and uncharitable; it condemned as irreligious everyone who was not a Pietist*
   c. *The Lutheran Church of the seventeenth century laid one-sided emphasis on doctrine; Pietism laid one-sided emphasis on life By underestimating the value of sound doctrine, it helped to ease the way for Liberalism and Modernism*
6. ***Unitas Fratrum***
   a. *the Hussites into hiding formed an organization in 1457 for which they adopted the name* Unitas Fratrum, *which means "Unity of the Brethren" generally known as the* Bohemian Brethren
   b. *The leaders of the* Unitas Fratrum *made contact with Luther and Calvin, and as a result their doctrinal views became more clear and sound*
   c. *Through the Counter Reformation and the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) this church was almost wiped out*
7. ***Count von Zinzendorf***
   a. *Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, descendant of an ancient Austrian noble family, born in Dresden in 1700*
   b. *His entire life was controlled by love for Jesus and a burning desire to save souls by winning them for Christ*
8. ***Herrnhut***
   a. *For many years a simple carpenter, Christian David, had been doing what he could to keep a remnant of the Unitas Fratrum together*
   b. *begged Count von Zinzendorf to permit the Hidden Seed to take refuge on his Berthelsdorf estate*
   c. *He assigned to the Brethren a corner of his wide estate, where they built up a community which they called Herrnhut, or the "Lord's Lodge.''*
   d. *Because they had come from the province of Moravia next to Huss's land of Bohemia, the Brethren, a mere remnant of the once flourishing and numerous Unitas Fratrum, from this time on became known to history as the* Moravians
9. ***The Moravians Organize as a Church***
   a. *During a communion service in Herrnhut on August 13, 1727, the Spirit's power was so strongly felt that that date was accepted as the date of the rebirth of the ancient Unitas Fratrum under the name of the* Moravian Church
10. ***The Moravians Pioneer in Missions***
    a. *Zinzendorf looked upon the members of the Moravian Church as soldiers of Christ, who were to go out to all parts of the world to conquer it for the King. To the Moravians belongs everlastingly the honor of being the first Protestant body to take seriously the Great Commission. Eventually they established missions in Africa, Asia, Greenland, Lapland, and among the American Indians*
    b. *David Zeisberger had labored among the North American Indians for sixty-three years, the longest missionary career on record*